

Dunbar Cave

Sustainability Features

Historical Significance

Dunbar Cave is an 8.1 mile long cave that has historical, natural, archaeological and geological significance. Excavations have revealed that this cave has been occupied by man for thousands of years, drawn by its constant stream flow and natural air conditioning. The cave is the only site in the United States where the public can see native American Mississippian cave art dating from approximately 1350 A.D. Religious symbols including circles, stars and a male warrior figure were drawn and carved on the walls of the cave and can be seen on the regular tour. It is also the site of scientific investigation where rare animals are studied including the blind, unpigmented cave fish and crayfish, salamanders, and bats.

Events

Although the cave is currently closed to the public, the park hosts many other activities year round including nature hikes for visitors of all ages.

Recycling

The park provides recycling for all of its visitors. Containers for both plastic and aluminum are located at the rear entrance of the Visitors Center.

Did You Know?

In the 1930s, the cave was associated with big band music and dances, with performances by such musicians as Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman. In 1948, country music star Roy Acuff purchased the property and broadcast a live country music radio show from the mouth of the cave.

Park Highlights



- There are three trails on the natural area that range from a leisurely walk to a fairly strenuous hike. All trails begin and end at the visitors' center.
- Fishing is a popular activity on Swan Lake. The lake is fed by the cold, clear stream that flows from the mouth of Dunbar Cave. Boating and swimming are not permitted.

